

COUNTY COUNCIL
OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

BILL NO. 08-21

Introduced by Council President Boniface at the request of the County Executive

Legislative Day No. 08-08 Date March 18, 2008

AN ACT to repeal and reenact, with amendments, Section 267-83, Historic landmarks list, of Article XV, Enumeration of Historic Landmarks, of Part 2, Historic District, of Chapter 267, Zoning, of the Harford County Code, as amended; to provide for the designation of the Asbury M.E. Church as a county landmark; and generally relating to historic landmarks.

By the Council, March 18, 2008

Introduced, read first time, ordered posted and public hearing scheduled

on: April 15, 2008

at: 6:30 p.m.

By Order: Barbara J. O'Connor, Council Administrator

PUBLIC HEARING

Having been posted and notice of time and place of hearing and title of Bill having been published according to the Charter, a public hearing was held on April 15, 2008 and concluded on April 15, 2008.

Barbara J. O'Connor, Council Administrator

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law. Underlining indicates language added to Bill by amendment. Language lined through indicates matter stricken out of Bill by amendment.

1 WHEREAS, the Asbury M.E. Church is of great historical significance to the citizens of
2 Harford County; and

3 WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 267-69 of the Harford County Code, as amended, the
4 Asbury M.E. Church meets one or more of the criteria necessary to be listed as a Harford County
5 Landmark; and

6 WHEREAS, the proposed nominated historic landmark includes one frame church structure,
7 built in 1924, as well as the associated cemetery; and

8 WHEREAS, the Asbury M.E. Church was inventoried and recorded on the Maryland Historic
9 Sites Inventory as historical site HA-1267 in 1979; and

10 WHEREAS, the Harford County Historic Preservation Commission voted on January 28, 2008
11 and unanimously recommended that the property known as Asbury M.E. Church, 114 Asbury Road, be
12 listed as a Harford County Historic Landmark.

13 Section 1. Be It Enacted By The County Council of Harford County, Maryland that Section 267-
14 83, Historic landmarks list, of Article XV, Enumeration of Historic Landmarks, of Part 2, Historic
15 District, of Chapter 267, Zoning, of the Harford County Code, as amended, be, and it is hereby,
16 repealed and reenacted, with amendments, all to read as follows:

17 **Chapter 267. Zoning**

18 **Part 2. Historic District**

19 **Article XV. Enumeration of Historic Landmarks**

20 **§ 267-83. Historic landmarks list.**

21 The following sites are designated as historic landmarks in accordance with Chapter 267, Part 2,
22 Articles X through XV. The boundaries of the historic landmarks are shown on the official historic
23 districts and landmarks maps, on file with the Department of Planning and Zoning, which are attached
24 hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

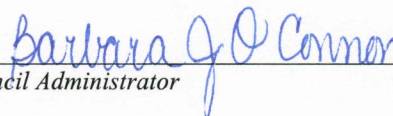
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1	Historic Number	Name
2	0.1.937	Christopher's Camp
3	0.2.441	Churchville Presbyterian Church and Cemetery
4	29.3.225	Hays House
5	33.4.609	Little Falls Meeting House Burial Ground and Fallston Friends
6		Schoolhouse
7	0.5.854	Nelson-Reardon-Kennard House
8	5.6.4	Rigbie House
9	0.7.1312	St. Francis de Sales Church
10	7.8.5	Sophia's Dairy
11	3.9.168	St. Mary's Church
12	0.10.561	Stansbury Mansion
13	21.11.49	Thomas Run Church
14	0.12.165	Deer Creek Harmony Presbyterian Church
15	32.13.12	Deer Creek Friends Meeting House and Cemetery
16	20.14.6	Bon Air
17	34.15.307	McComas Institute
18	15.16.249	Spesutia Church Vestry House and Cemetery
19	0.17.867	Bush Hotel
20	26.18.1315	Joppa Historic District
21	4.19.44	D. H. Springhouse
22	0.20.113	King and Queen Seats
23	0.21.1117	Whitaker Mill and Miller's House

- 1 0.22.103 Tabernacle Church
- 2 2.23.66 Old Brick Baptist Church
- 3 0.24.0 St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery
- 4 26.25.693 Woodside
- 5 61.25.240 Swansbury
- 6 59.27.1279 Greenwood
- 7 0.26.1244 Historical Society Headquarters
- 8 HA.356 Joshua's Meadows
- 9 HA-1267 ASBURY M.E. CHURCH
- 10 Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted that this Act shall take effect 60 calendar days from the date
- 11 it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE: June 16, 2008

*The Council Administrator does hereby certify that
fifteen (15) copies of this Bill are immediately available for
distribution to the public and the press.*



Council Administrator

HARFORD COUNTY BILL NO. 08-21

Brief Title Historic Landmark – Asbury M.E. Church

is herewith submitted to the County Council of Harford County for enrollment as being the text as finally passed.

CERTIFIED TRUE AND CORRECT

Barbara J. O'Connor
Council Administrator

Date April 15, 2008

ENROLLED

Billy Bonfante
Council President

Date April 15, 2008

BY THE COUNCIL

Read the third time.

Passed: LSD 08-11

Failed of Passage: _____

By Order

Barbara J. O'Connor
Council Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 16th day of April, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

Barbara J. O'Connor
Council Administrator



BY THE EXECUTIVE

David R. Craig
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

APPROVED: Date April 17, 2008

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill No. 08-21 having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, becomes law on April 17, 2008.

EFFECTIVE DATE: June 16, 2008

Barbara J. O'Connor
Barbara J. O'Connor,
Council Administrator

BILL NO. 08-21

Harford County Historic Preservation Program



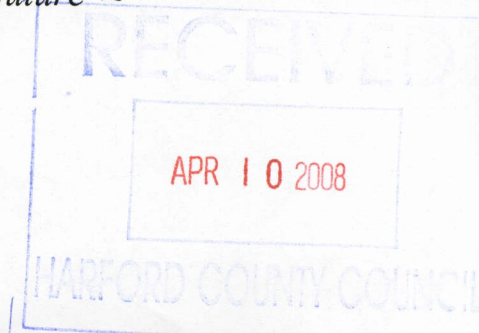
Harford County Department of
Planning and Zoning

April 2008

David R. Craig
Harford County Executive

≈Preserving Harford's past; promoting Harford's future ≈

This document is available in alternative format upon request.



The Harford County Historic Preservation Commission unanimously voted on January 28, 2008 to recommend that the property known as the Asbury M.E. Church, 114 Asbury Road, be listed as a Harford County Historic Landmark, pursuant to Chapter 267 Article XII of the Harford County Code. The Historic Preservation Commission investigated possible listing at the request of the property's current owner, the Asbury Community Association.

The Asbury M.E. Church was inventoried and recorded as historical site HA-1267 in July of 1979. At the request of the Asbury Community Association, the County Landmark nomination is to include the primary church structure constructed in 1924, as well as the associated cemetery.

The proposed historic landmark is located on the west side of Asbury Road, approximately half way between the intersection with Edwards Lane and the intersection with Churchville Road (MD-22).

The property is currently owned by the Asbury Community Association. The tax identification number is 03028445.

LOCATION MAP



OVERVIEW MAP



HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Asbury M.E. Church was locally known as the 'Big Asbury' since it was the only African American church in Harford County when it was organized in 1838. An associated African American community developed within a short distance of the church during the late 19th century.

The Asbury M.E. Church was organized in 1838 on ground given by Nathan Cooper. He apparently procured this property from Matilda Cooper and her sister Mrs. Mary A. Brown, who were sold as slaves from Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania to a family in St. Mary's County. They were then moved to Harford County where this property was given to them. According to church records, this lot has been in the hands of African Americans for more than 150 years.

The primary church building, constructed in 1924, has a projecting two-story, hip-roofed tower on the southeast corner and windows with pointed arches. The primary church structure is covered with aluminum siding, has a gable roof, and is three bays long by two bays wide. The structure has additions on the west end and the north side. On the east end is an exterior chimney.

The entrance to the primary church structure is in the east side of the tower. The second story of the tower has a diamond-shaped window at the flared base and two louvered openings on each side. The east end of the main structure has one window in the first story and a round window in the gable.

The associated cemetery lies on both the east and west side of Asbury Road. The eastern cemetery contains ± 70 marked grave stones that range in dates from the late 1800's until the 1980's. Many of the older grave stones are highly weathered. The western cemetery contains approximately 100 marked grave stones dating back to the 1920's.

The primary church structure is on the original site and has remained in good structural condition. Slight alteration of the building has not affected the integrity of its primary character defining elements. Asbury M.E. Church remains a significant historical and cultural resource in Harford County.

The Asbury M.E. Church remains in good structural condition. Landmark status will ensure that future modifications to the church and adjacent areas are in keeping with the historic character that has led to its nomination.

Landmark status will also ensure that all future exterior alterations to the property will be assessed using the "Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation" as a guide for appropriateness, as stated in Article XII, Section 267-71 of the Harford County Code.



